

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9656

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USNMR SHAPE

S E C R E T BONN 00494

SHAPE FOR INTAF: VIENNA FOR MBFR DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, MCAP, NATO, GW

SUBJECT: MBFR AND BUNDESWEHR REORGANIZATION: GERMAN  
ARMY ASPECTS

REF: BONN 347

1. GIVEN MBFR EMPHASIS ON LAND FORCES, EMBOFF ASKED  
DEFENSE MINISTRY POLICY PLANNING CHIEF WIECK FOR  
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION REGARDING EFFECTS OF BUNDESWEHR  
REORGANIZATION ON GERMAN ARMY FORCES. BESIDES OVERALL  
INFORMATION IN REFTEL, WIECK HAS NOW PROVIDED US  
TABLE FROM UPCOMING DEFENSE WHITE BOOK ON GERMAN LAND  
FORCES. ACCORDING TO TABLE, GERMAN ARMY WOULD HAVE  
340,000 FORCES, OF WHICH 329,000 WOULD REPRESENT

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ORGANIZATIONAL DUTY STRENGTH AND 11,000 WOULD BE

"VARIABLE COMPONENT." THE 340,000 ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTH WOULD CONSIST OF 288,500 ON-DUTY FORCES, 15,500 IN SCHOOL-TRAINING AND 25,000 "STANDBY READINESS FORCES." THE 11,000 VARIABLE COMPONENT WOULD COMPRISE 5,000 EXCESS STRENGTH DRAFTEES AND 6,000 ON-DUTY RESERVISTS. BESIDES THE 340,000 OVERALL PEACETIME ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTH, THERE WOULD BE 610,000 ARMY RESERVE FORCES.

2. TIMING ASPECTS. WIECK ACKNOWLEDGED TO EMBOFF THAT SOME CONFUSION COULD BE CAUSED, FOR MBFR PURPOSES, GIVEN 1978 DATE LINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF BUNDESWEHR REORGANIZATION (SEE VIENNA 10116 - NOTAL). HE NOTED THAT NO EXACT TIME IN 1978 HAD BEEN SPECIFIED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF BUNDESWEHR REORGANIZATION. HE INDICATED THAT, IF ESSENTIAL, REORGANIZATION COULD BE COMPLETED SOMEWHAT SOONER THAN 1978--"BUT NOT MUCH SOONER."

3. COMMENT. CAREFUL COMPARISONS OF FIGURES FOR VARIOUS FORCE CATEGORIES WILL BE REQUIRED IN EVALUATION OF PROPOSED BUNDESWEHR REORGANIZATION. OVER AND ABOVE FORCE FIGURES, HOWEVER, WIECK'S BASIC ARGUMENT IS THAT REORGANIZATION PLAN WOULD LEAD TO SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN COMBAT AND ARMoured CAPABILITIES, IN ORGANIZATION, AND IN GERMAN CONTRIBUTION TO NATO DEFENSE POSTURE (REFTEL PARA 6). AS WIECK SAID, DESIRED BUNDESWEHR FORCE STRUCTURE IS PREMISED ON GERMANS ABSORBING EVENTUAL MBFR OBLIGATIONS WITH THE 25,000 STANDBY READINESS LAND FORCES. WIECK CONCEDED THAT SHOULD THIS LATTER ASSUMPTION TURN OUT TO BE UNTENABLE, FOR REASONS MENTIONED IN REFTEL PARA 4 OR FOR OTHER REASONS, THEN DIFFERENT EFFECTS OF MBFR WOULD REQUIRE MODIFICATION IN CERTAIN ASPECTS OF FORCE STRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS AS WELL.  
HILLENBRAND

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